(c) what are the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Being collected and will be made available as soon as possible.

Weakening of consensus behind economic reforms

3302. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has announced that the consensus behind the economic reforms was weakening;

(b) if so, the specific instances where the understanding is absent;

(c) whether he is contemplating any steps to remove the causes for the weakening of the consensus; and

(d) the reasons for not encouraging a wider debate on the steps which are necessary for the consensus?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) Addressing a meeting in Calcutta, the Finance Minister regretted the weakening of political consensus on the economic reforms agenda of the government in the last few months. He stressed that people who had advocated reforms when they were in power were opposing them now. He said that the only way to strengthen consensus was to improve the quality of life of the common man, hence it would be his endeavour to keep the common man interest at the centre of all economic reforms programme.

Reduction in import duty on soya oil

3303. SHRI CM. IBRAMIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have reduced import duty on soya-oil from 60 to 15 percent;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Indian farmer is doubly hit this year, one becouse of loss and damage to soyabean crops due to excess rains, and secondly because of crash in prices of soyabean due to heavy reduction in import duty on edible oils; and